Schemes for welfare of minorities

*428. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes being implemented by the Ministry for the welfare of minorities, especially for Muslims;

(b) the funding of each project during the last three years, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the plan prepared for the current Five Year Plan as to the measures and welfare of Muslim minorities, so far, in consultation with the Planning Commission; and

(d) the transparency in each scheme being implemented in Andhra Pradesh for the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) The following plan schemes and programmes are implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the welfare of minority communities, which includes Muslims:

(i) Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme;

(ii) Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme;

(iii) Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme;

(iv) Free Coaching and Allied Scheme;

(v) Multi-sectoral Development Programme for Minority Concentration Districts:

(vi) Schemes implemented by Maulana Azad Education Foundation:

(vii) Schemes implemented by National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation;

These schemes/programmes have been prepared in consultation with Planning Commission for implementation in the current Five Year Plan. The State-wise details of financial assistance given under these schemes, including Andhra Pradesh are available on the website of the Ministry *www.minorityaffairs.gov.in*. The schemes are being implemented in a transparent manner.

Non-availability of form 49(O) at polling booths

*429. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, forms 49(O) were not provided at a large number of polling booths in the recent general elections for the benefit of voters wanting to express their disapproval of the candidates contesting the elections, as per the media reports published in a section of the press;

(b) if so, the estimated number of booths in the country which were not having these forms; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Under the election Laws and Rules, there is no form titled '49-(O)'. However, there exists Rule 49-O under the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 which provides an option to the elector not to record his vote. Under this Rule an elector, after his electoral roll number has been duly entered in the register of voters in Form-17A and has put his signature or thumb impression, decides not to record his vote, a remark to this effect is then made against the said entry in Form 14A by the Presiding Officer and the signature or thumb impression of the elector is obtained against such remarks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Support for renewable energy sector

*430. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assured that full support would be provided for renewable energy sector;

(b) if so, the main details of the proposals being considered for the energy sector;

(c) whether Government has set up a committee on energy; and

(d) if so, what concrete steps and measures Government is going to take to meet the power shortage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) The Government is already providing support to renewable energy sector through a mix of fiscal and financial incentives. Central Financial Assistance ranging from about 30% to 90% of costs of various types of renewable energy systems/devices for different applications is being provided depending on the technology employed, location and user category. Fiscal incentives being provided include accelerated depreciation, nil/concessional excise and customs duties. Further benefit under Section 80-1A of Income Tax Act 1961 is available to undertakings setup for the generation or generation and distribution of Renewable power in India. The apart, preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States.

(b) Main proposals for energy sector, which are being acted upon are as contained in the Integrated Energy Policy formulated by the Government in December 2008 covering all sources of energy including renewables.

(c) An Energy Coordination Committee chaired by the Prime Minister has been constituted on 13th July, 2005 to enable a systematic approach to policy formulation, promote coordination in inter-departmental action and function as a key mechanism for providing institutional support to decision making in the area of energy planning and security.